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SUBJECT: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION ON VOTING, ETHICS AND CENSORSHIP IN
THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Block Quotes

Thursday, June 8, 2006

-- Secretary General of the Journalists' Association, Faisal Al-Qanai, criticized in the pro-government Arabic-language daily Al-Seyassah under the title "Vote buying: Myth and Truth" (6/8): "Are there really vote buying operations taking place here in Kuwait? Or, are these accusations made simply to tarnish the reputation of competitors and to prepare excuses in case of losing?... Spreading these myths tarnishes the reputation of all Kuwaitis and makes them appear to be bribers without conscience, selling themselves for a handful of Dinars."

-- Dina Al-Tarah remarked in the moderate Arabic-language daily Al-Watan under the title "Women and Political Words" (6/8): "I contemplated the lack of attention paid by religious clerics to the Islamic principles of love, mercy, and cooperation that assure dialogue between couples when a disagreement arises. They had the audacity to issue a fatwa allowing fear to be factored into a marriage, encouraging husbands to use scare techniques to repress women, and for family life to be taken lightly instead of caring for its stability. I call on and remind the women of Kuwait, especially those that are married, that God offered the trusteeship to the mountains and they refused. Kuwait is our trusteeship and our votes are our trusteeship."

-- Doctor and political activist Sajid Al-Abdali editorialized in the moderate Arabic-language daily Al-Rai Al-Aam under the title "Integrity with Complete Transparency" (6/8): "I imagine that the recent phenomenon of committees and popular groups to combat political corruption is a healthy one. Their birth stipulates that a large number of Kuwaitis are stepping out of the circle of status quo and standing still into the circle of change.... For all who are active in the field of combating corruption, they should know that there is room for everyone and that there is no room for statements defaming others in the same field. There should no attempts to make another look bad simply to receive media coverage. As such conduct in itself is dishonesty and a lack of transparency."

-- Abdul Latif Al-Daij penned in the progressive Arabic-language daily Al-Qabas under the title "We Want Alliance" (6/8): "It is very upsetting to hear that the government prohibited the broadcast of 'Al-Tahalof' satellite television station through the Arabsat satellite service. That is evidence of the weakness and frailty of the government. It also points to its lack of popularity and credibility. It is saddening that matters have come this far. It hurts us to see the Kuwaiti regime, one of the most stable Arab

regimes, hurt by an image and a voice."

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